

House Resolution 26 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY L. MILLER, RUNNING-MARQUARDT, and PETERSEN

1 A Resolution recognizing May as Lupus Awareness Month
2 in Iowa.

3 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America designates
4 May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support
5 for all Americans who have lupus; and

6 WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune
7 disease in which the immune system is unbalanced,
8 causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually
9 every organ system in the body; and

10 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body,
11 including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain,
12 and can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,
13 miscarriages, and organ failure; and

14 WHEREAS, although lupus strikes mostly women of
15 childbearing age, no one is immune from lupus; and
16 African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native
17 Americans are two to three times more likely to develop
18 lupus, a disparity that remains unexplained; and

19 WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to
20 diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those
21 of many other illnesses, with more than one-half of
22 all people with lupus enduring four or more years of
23 suffering and visiting three or more doctors before
24 obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

25 WHEREAS, major gaps exist in understanding
26 the causes and consequences of lupus, and current
27 treatments for the disease can have damaging side
28 effects; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2011 the United States Food and Drug
2 Administration has approved the first new drug for
3 lupus in half a century; and

4 WHEREAS, 16,000 Americans develop lupus every
5 year and 500,000 to 1.5 million Americans have been
6 diagnosed with the disease, including nearly 15,000
7 people in Iowa; NOW THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
9 That the House of Representatives recognizes May
10 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month in Iowa and urges all
11 Iowans to observe this month by educating themselves
12 on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with
13 the Iowa Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America
14 in supporting programs of research, education, and
15 community service.